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JACK ANDERSON'S

WASHINGTON LETTER

October 1985 Update

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EXCERPTED

ASK JACK ANDERSON

A Los Angeles, Calif., subscriber writes regarding the abandonment of the Miskito Indian fighters in Nicaragua: "You know as well as I do that Congress cut off the funds to the CIA and that Congress and not the CIA is to be blamed for this tragedy. Why don't you place the blame where it belongs...namely, on liberals such as you who have been critical of American support of the Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua?"

True, Congress discontinued aid to the Contra forces in Nicaragua after May, 1984. However, in June of this year Congress voted \$27 million in humanitarian aid (food, medicine and clothing). But my reporter in Central America found several weeks later that the Misura forces (including Miskitos) still were receiving poor medical care and food supplies; several had not received adequate medical treatment since 1983-84. (Perhaps I should add that I have been a sharp critic of the Marxist regime in Nicaragua. I support President Reagan's aims if not all his methods.)

FOREIGN OUTLOOK: PASS THE AMMUNITION

Mal de mer. The French government belatedly admitted its responsibility for the sinking of the anti-nuclear protest ship Rainbow Warrior, in which one man died. My intelligence sources report a disturbing "So what?" attitude among U.S. and allied intelligence circles toward what can only be described as state-sponsored terrorism. The feeling seems to be that the French had every right to take drastic action to protect what they viewed as their national interests. If this is indeed the attitude of responsible intelligence officials, that's pretty scary.

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Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat has AIDS. DOUBTFUL.

Hints of this possibility have tantalized Israeli intelligence. But so far it doesn't seem likely. For example, he escaped the Israeli bombing of his Tunis headquarters because, he said, he was out jogging on the beach. And he certainly looks as fit as ever in recent photographs. Arafat has been suspected for years of being a homosexual; he has taken some pains to quash the rumor by being seen in public with various women. My intelligence sources think he's probably gay. But ~~the closest U.S. intelligence has come to putting it in writing was in a psychological profile that said it would be oversimplification to call him "weak, vain and effeminate."~~